Salt.

17. The manufacture of salt is an important industry on which considerable capital has been invested. It is gratifying therefore to find that the total quantity of salt manufactured in all the factories together rose from 665,194 maunds in 1104 to 704,464 maunds in 1105. But for intermittent rains, the output would have been greater. The concession granted to the factory owners to transport salt under-bond to the sales depot at Alleppey and to pay the duty at the time of issue to consumers instead of at the removal from the factory, has been freely availed of and the quantity of salt so transported in 1105 was nearly double that in 1104. In view of the large stock of home salt available, the quantity of foreign salt purchased on behalf of Government from Bombay and Tuticorin was much less than in 1104. Seventy per cent. of the salt consumed in the State came from the South Travancore factories; and with the improvement of the factories and favourable seasonal conditions, Travancore may hope in the near future to become self-contained in the matter of salt.

Industries.

18. Representations have been made in this House that Government should pioneer new industries conducted on a factory scale. The Economic Development Board urged the desirability of all available information about the existing factories being collected and recommended the appointment of a committee to enquire into the working of the existing factory industries and collect information about their success or failure. The Government have accordingly resolved to appoint a committee to enquire into the present economic and financial condition of the important factory industries in the State generally and more particularly of the coir industry and to collect information about the factors which contribute to their success or failure. Orders constituting the committee have just been issued and Government have asked for the report being submitted before the 1st June 1931. Among the more important activities of the Industries Department may be mentioned the substantial work that is being done in popularising weaving as a cottage industry. The itinerant spinning and weaving parties remain for sufficiently long periods at selected mofussil places and train batches of pupils. The poorer pupils are given looms and accessories free of cost to enable them to adopt weaving as their profession. The Industries Department participated in the Madras Park Fair Exhibition in December 1930.

Education.

19. The year witnessed a further increase in the number of educational institutions as well as in the number of pupils under instruction in them. The number of schools rose from 3,632 to 3,641 and the number of pupils from 545,225 to 568,703 or by 4·31 per cent. The number of Colleges remained the same, but there was an appreciable fall in the number of students attending them, which was due evidently to